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Building more livable cities is vital for ending poverty and boosting prosperity worldwide. More than half of the world’s population lives in cities now, with this number expected to almost double by 2050. Cities are hubs of economic growth, generating most GDP and creating private sector jobs. However, they also pose challenges like affordable housing, congestion, and climate change impacts. The rapid urbanization puts pressure on cities to meet growing demands for jobs, efficient infrastructure, and services. Many people live in slums or informal settlements, with over 1 billion facing these issues. Conflict is also increasing, with half of the forcibly displaced living in cities. Once a city is built, its form and land use can be set for generations, leading to unsustainable sprawl that limits connectivity and strains resources. Creating livable cities needs strategic planning and investment. Governments must work together to shape urban futures and create opportunities for all. Investing in infrastructure and services can lift millions out of poverty and secure long-term economic success. The World Bank invests \$5 billion annually in urban development, aligning with the mission to end extreme poverty and boost prosperity on a livable planet. Our portfolio includes 192 projects amounting to \$34.8 billion, focusing on resilient infrastructure, safe housing, vibrant local economies, and strong local governments. The World Bank has established several global partnerships to support sustainable urban development, leveraging innovative results-based financing and expertise from Japan, Europe, and other partners. The World Bank has undertaken various projects to address urban challenges, including improving public services and infrastructure. In one initiative, over 1.5 million people benefited from upgrades to over 100 hectares of public space, rehabilitation of 35 kilometers of roads, construction of 39 kilometers of sewer lines and stormwater drainage, and the building of six new bus stops. The project also enhanced municipal service delivery by implementing a business registration portal that reduced the time required to register a firm from 18 days to two days and a new construction permit procedure that decreased the time required to obtain a building permit from 60 days to 5-10 days. In another project, the World Bank helped improve municipal services across North Macedonia, benefiting over 425,000 residents. The project led to the rehabilitation of 32 kilometers of roads, procurement of 34 waste management vehicles, and energy-efficient renovations of 1,900 square meters of public buildings. The project also generated over 2,700 jobs and improved transparency, financial sustainability, and service delivery. In Mexico, the World Bank supported a project that increased access to affordable housing for low-income residents, benefiting over 28,000 people. The project effectively targeted low-income beneficiaries, with 70% of the support going to households with incomes below 2.7 times the minimum wage. The World Bank also helped Bangkok address its urban heat challenges. A study found that Bangkok experienced 60 to 100 days per year with temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius between 1960 and 2000. The report forecasted that by the end of 2100, Bangkok could see an additional 153 such days annually under a moderate global emissions scenario. The study identified several challenges, including increased heat-related health impacts and premature mortality. To address these challenges, the report suggested short-term interventions, such as inclusive heat alerts and cooling centers, and long-term policy solutions, including green and blue infrastructure expansion and integrating climate considerations into urban planning. The World Bank also provided financing to support Bangladesh’s development, signing two agreements totaling \$900 million. Bangladesh to receive \$900 million from World Bank to boost climate resilience and green growth World Bank supports Amaravati’s transformation with \$800 million investment The World Bank has committed \$800 million to support the development of Amaravati, a new city being built in Andhra Pradesh, India. The financial assistance will be used to catalyze private sector investment and create jobs. Urbanization in Nepal: A Critical Juncture for Economic Development The World Bank has approved \$100 million in concessional financing to support Senegal’s urban mobility transformation in the Dakar metropolitan area, aiming to create more competitive, sustainable, and inclusive city growth in four key areas: institutions and governance, urban planning and implementation, sustainable infrastructure, and inclusive urbanization.

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